

The statewide celebration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, an initiative of the Office of Victims of Crime, culminated on April 7, 2014, with the Georgia Crime Victims' Rights Ceremony. The ceremony honors the experiences and accomplishments of victims of crime in the state of Georgia.

The Multi-State Agency Victim Service Partnership (M-SAVSP), and eleven agency undertaking, looks to restore victims and their families by providing seamless quality services to every victim every time.

AOC Director Marla S. Moore joined agency heads from the ten other state agencies in the M-SAVSP, including the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV), to highlight the work being done in the AOC to assist victims of crime. Ms. Moore highlighted the \$2.1 million appropriation which the AOC oversees to provide free legal services to low-income victims of family violence. Non-profit entities with a successful record of providing such services (i.e., Georgia Legal Services and Georgia Law Center for the Homeless) receive grants in order for attorneys to assist victims with protective orders, family support, housing and job-related issues, etc. Ms. Moore commented that additional funding was granted by the Georgia General Assembly which will be used to enhance legal services in rural South Georgia, where family violence death rates are high.

Greg Loughlin, Executive Director, GCFV, spoke of the policy initiatives of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence and its solid statewide partnerships with victim-serving agencies. A goal of the newly adopted strategic plan of the GCFV is to develop new resources for community-based service provision to underserved populations and areas. Mr. Loughlin alerted audience members to the statewide domestic violence hotline: 1-800-33-HAVEN.

Additional information about the National Crime Victims' Rights Week may be found at: <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/>